

TOP SECRET

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## EUROPE

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1. ITALY: Attitude toward NAT--US Ambassador Dunn in Rome has been informed by Italian Foreign Office officials that the Italian Government is "intensely interested" in the immediate strengthening of Italy's political and economic collaboration with North Atlantic Treaty (NAT) countries. The Italian officials favor the establishment of a permanent political organization to facilitate the solution of common problems of NAT countries and report that Foreign Minister Sforza is "seriously considering" proposing at London that preparations be made for establishing a "common" NAT Army "with the fullest possible standardization and a real unified command." Dunn comments that he is impressed by the deep desire of Italian officials to play a more responsible role in NAT affairs and expresses the view that failure to accept Italian Government leaders as equal partners with leaders of the US, UK, and France will: (a) weaken them in the eyes both of their followers and their enemies; and (b) encourage the advocates of Italian neutrality in the cold war. Dunn strongly believes that taking Italy into closer confidence and fuller partnership would "pay good dividends" by assuring stronger Italian support in solving problems of the West.

(CIA Comment: CIA concurs in the above estimate.)

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